

# Mapping and Assessment Subcommittee

Governor's Forest Health Advisory Council

April 2004 Update

## Upcoming Meetings

**April 15:** 1-5 pm. Working meeting to identify needs for the proposed statewide fuels treatment mapping system. ASLD, Room 321, 1616 W. Adams, Phoenix. See page 2 for the meeting agenda. Please RSVP if you plan to attend.

**April 22:** 1-5 pm. Second working meeting on needs assessment. County Supervisors' Association, Conference Room, 1905 W. Washington, Phoenix. This meeting will be a follow on to the April 15 meeting. Please RSVP if you plan to attend.

## Website

We now have a website thanks to the efforts of Cliff Pearlberg, Fire Management Division, ASLD. Go to [www.azstatefire.org](http://www.azstatefire.org) and click on "Mapping & Assessment". Currently it features the subcommittee Charter, Minutes, and the brochure from the recent Map Exhibit. At future committee meetings we will talk about what else to put up on the website.

## Contact

For further information or to RSVP contact Kathy Hemenway, 928.536.6075, [Hemenway@asilo.com](mailto:Hemenway@asilo.com).

## Map Exhibit

Featuring over 30 maps, the map exhibit at the Governor's Second Annual Forest Health Conference was very well received. There were maps from each national forest, two tribes, three fire departments, two partnership organizations, two universities, and one environmental organization. The maps showed work that is getting done on the ground as well as work in the planning stages. In addition, there were maps that showed communities at risk and their wildland-urban interfaces, fire history, and timber sales.

Thanks very much to everyone who provided maps. Specifically, we would like to thank: Brian Power, Tim McGann, and Holly Kleindienst, Kaibab NF; Russ Copp, Coconino NF; John Anhold, US FS Region 3; Steve Gatewood, Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership; Paul Summerfelt, Flagstaff Fire Department; Tom Potter, Prescott NF; John Mosier and Jim Biggers, Forest Truth; Ted Galde, Prescott Fire Department; Robb Beery, Payson Fire Department; Karl Siderits, Ed Paul, and Don Pollock, Tonto NF; Jeff Cook and Rob Jones, City of Show Low; the White Mountains GIS Users Group; Ed Collins and Pam Klein-Taylor, Apache-Sitgreaves NF; Paul DeClay, White Mountain Apache Tribe; Craig Wilcox, Kelly Hetzler, and Bob Hetzler, San Carlos Apache Tribe; Marc Kaplan, Coronado NF; Mike List,

The Nature Conservancy; Susan Lee, US FS Region 3 (NFPORS); and Gene Trobia, State Cartographers Office. Thanks are due also to individuals from the universities who provided posters and maps about research projects, including: Tom Sisk and Ethan Aumack from NAU (ForestERA); Pete Fule and Joe Crouse, NAU; Charlie Denton, ERI; and Barron Orr, Gary Christopherson, Wolfgang Grunberg, and Anne Thwaites from the University of Arizona (WALTER Project). Finally, we would like to thank those who helped spread the word about the "Call for Maps": Chris English and Alex Becenti, BIA and Tribes; Bruce Thompson, Arizona Fire Chiefs' Association; Tom Homan, Northern Arizona GIS Users Group; Cathy Connolly, League of Cities and Towns; and Lisa Atkins, County Supervisors Association.

The maps collected for the exhibit have been inventoried for use in the needs assessment. Their contents were analyzed to identify how the various organizations classify treatments and how context is provided. This information will be used to identify map designs that are informative and easy to understand. Those designs will be included in the treatment mapping system and descriptions of the designs will be recommended to organizations in an attempt to move toward consistent representations. The more consistently we map treatments and critical context, the easier it will be for decision-makers to compare and contrast work in different areas and to effectively set priorities.

## Needs Assessment Meetings

The purpose of the meetings on April 15 and 22 is to work on a needs assessment for the proposed statewide system for mapping fuels treatments. Known as the "Arizona Data Mapping Project for Wildfire Hazard Mitigation," the project is being managed by ASLD and Eastern Arizona Counties (EECO). Other partners include the Governor's Forest Health Councils, the Arizona Interagency Coordinating Group, and the State Cartographers Office. The meeting agenda will include discussions about: the perspectives of different user groups and what they want to get from the system, possible data layers to include, designs for maps and reports, and technical issues involved in combining data from different organizations. We will also discuss plans for a brief survey to be sent out to organizations to assess their current GIS capabilities and their treatment data. Naturally, designing the system to leverage existing data and avoid duplication of data entry is a high priority.

The needs assessment will be used to identify requirements as well as to estimate the work involved in getting from where we are to where we want to be. This will form the core of a proposal to be used to seek additional funding.

## Arizona Map

At our March meeting Gene Trobia gave an overview of Arizona Map, a prototype Internet-GIS application being developed by the State Cartographers Office for Arizona Geographic Information Council. The subcommittee was interested in pursuing the possibility of implementing the fuels treatment system as an addition to

Arizona Map. See [sco.az.gov/website/-arizonamap](http://sco.az.gov/website/-arizonamap).

## Members

The subcommittee now counts among its membership representatives of many of the organizations involved in wildfire hazard mitigation and ecological restoration, as well as geographers. Membership is informal and open to everyone. The role of the subcommittee is to make recommendations to the Governor's Forest Health Councils, whose voting members were appointed by the Governor.

The current membership includes: Kirk Rowdabaugh, State Forester, ASLD; Dr. Martin Moore, Eastern Arizona Counties Organization; Gene Trobia, State Cartographer, ASLD; Taylor McKinnon, Grand Canyon Trust and Co-Chair of the Governor's Forest Health Advisory Council; Diane Vosick, Ecological Restoration Institute and Co-Chair of the Governor's Forest Health Oversight Council; Karl Siderits, Tonto National Forest; Tom Swetnam, University of Arizona; Don Falk, University of Arizona; Alex McCord, DEMA; John Mosier, Forest Truth; Dharmesh Jain, Coconino County; Tom Sisk, Northern Arizona University; Lew Levenson, Arizona Partnership for Forest Health; Chris English, BIA; Jayson Coil, Sedona Fire Department; Pete Lahm, US FS (ADEQ); Steve Gatewood, Greater Flagstaff Forests Partnership; and Marc Kaplan, Coronado National Forest.

The Chair is Kathy Hemenway, Arizona Data Mapping Project, and the Co-Chair is Barron Orr, University of Arizona.

## Charter

The subcommittee was formed following the Mapping and Assessment Workshop on February 13 at the Department of Emergency and Military Affairs in Phoenix. At its second meeting on March 11, the group developed its Charter:

The subcommittee will provide recommendations and guidance to the Governor's Forest Health Councils and the State Forester regarding mapping and assessment. This will include recommendations regarding data format specifications for maps and the design and development of data repositories. This involves specifications and repositories intended to facilitate communication and coordination among decision-makers and the public regarding forest fuels treatments for wildfire hazard mitigation, wildland fire risk and hazard assessment, treatment monitoring, consideration of forest health in land-use planning and growth management, and forest health condition assessment.

## Treatment Effectiveness

As we work through the needs assessment process, one consideration will be the need to classify treatments in a way that enables us to assess their effectiveness. Naturally, one major parameter is the year of treatment since all treatments have a limited lifespan. Other significant parameters include features of the treatments themselves. While the agencies use an extensive classification system in NFPORS, other organizations classify treatments in a variety of other ways. For the latest scientific perspective on treatment effectiveness, see "Science Basis for Changing Forest Structure to Modify Wildfire Behavior and Severity," GTR-RMRS-120, January 2004.